



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS 37 ILLEGAL ALIENS FROM D.C. AREA

Among those removed: gang members, sexual predator

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) deported 37 aliens this week including 25 criminal aliens, from the Washington, D.C., area.

Crimes committed by these individuals included theft, assault, burglary, sexual battery and malicious wounding. Three criminal-aliens -- two citizens of Honduras and one from Mexico -- claimed affiliation with the MS-13 street gang. One Honduran citizen was removed under ICE’s Operation Predator.

“These criminals mistakenly believe that they can fly below the radar and prey upon our communities,” said Mary Loiselle, DRO Field Office Director for the D.C. area. “ICE will continue to target immigration violators, particularly these types of criminals, in order to restore integrity to the nation’s immigration system. We are grateful to Fairfax County for their partnership in this effort.”

Among those deported this week:

Jose Funes-Lopez, 26, is a citizen of Honduras. Funes admits to being a member of the 18th Street gang since the age 14. He illegally entered the United States in October.

Jose Santos-Laynes is a citizen of Honduras. Santos was arrested during a joint operation with the Fairfax County Police Gang Unit in Virginia. He is an admitted member of MS-13. He illegally entered the United States in 2003.

Juan Lopez-Mendez is a citizen of Mexico. Mendez was arrested during a joint operation with the Fairfax County Police Gang Unit in Virginia. Mendez is a member of MS-13. He illegally entered the United States in Sept. 2002.

Jose Roberto Portillo is a citizen of Honduras. Portillo was convicted Dec. 12, 2003, for aggravated sexual battery in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County. The victim was under the age of 13. Portillo was sentenced to five years of prison. He illegally entered the United States in March 2000.

The removal of Portillo is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative designed to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched nationwide in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,000 sexual predators and deported more than 2,100 foreign nationals.

The removal of criminal and other illegal aliens from the United States reached record levels in Fiscal Year 2004 with more than 160,000 aliens removed. In the D.C. area last year, ICE removed 1,391 aliens last year; 819 were criminal aliens.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.